

# CountyCitizen

Oct-Dec 2002

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## People's Transportation Plan: Solutions to a shared problem

**Port of Miami receives  
award of excellence**

**A man with two hearts  
makes medical history**



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The *County Citizen* is published quarterly by the Miami-Dade County Communication Department  
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 2510, Miami, FL 33128  
305-375-2836

Juan Mendieta, Director • Cynthia Jones, Assistant Director  
• Hernando Vergara, Editor • Frank Guemes, Creative Director • Jennifer Chee-Bravo, Design and Layout

Photography:  
Rick Garcia • Argelio Hernandez  
Richard Johnson • Leszek Zujwoda

**Tell us what you think.**  
**Send your comments and story ideas to:**  
**news@miamidadegov**

# SPEAKING *Of*

## People's Transportation Plan seeks to get Miami-Dade traffic moving again

On Election Day in November, you will have the opportunity to decide whether to solve the transportation gridlock that is overwhelming your hometown. The ballot will ask you to approve a half-penny tax for a program that will go directly to solving this problem.

I ask the employees of Miami-Dade County to consider the benefits of this new plan. It is not a government plan; it is the "People's Transportation Plan." It's your plan.



To create this plan, we gave you and many fellow residents more than 100 opportunities to be heard. Meeting after meeting, all around the County, you came with your ideas, thoughts, and directions – all tinged with a cry for help. Added to that were 97,000 hits on the website, comments taken from radio talk shows, letters and phone calls.

You spoke with eloquence, determination, anger, frustration and hope. After more than 50 town hall meetings, roundtables, small meetings and two transportation summits, you told us what you want done about transportation.

At the final summit, more than 1,200 of you gathered to vote on what you wanted to be included in your transportation plan. In this direct way you told us what you wanted us to do about traffic.

This was a spectacular culmination of the objective of creating the "People's Transportation Plan." It proved that you want answers to the glut of traffic that's damaging our Miami-Dade lifestyle and clogging the arteries of commerce.

Your conclusions were virtually unanimous – crossing all ethnic and language lines. In general, you asked for three major steps. You wanted additional bus and rail facilities, you wanted the program funded by a dedicated sales tax, and you wanted an independent oversight trust to make sure the money was properly spent.

Throughout the months of meetings, your deadline for a trust or oversight board was vastly apparent. You all recognized that our traffic system is broken, and you wanted it fixed. But you insisted that program includes an independent board to watch over funds.

We told you that you are the authors of this plan, and we did not go back on our word.

We turned over all your suggestions to transportation experts who created the technical details of the plan and legislative process at the county and state level needed to bring this issue to a vote.

And, true to our word, we have been given approval by the Board of County Commissioners to form a Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust composed of carefully selected community leaders and other interested people to oversee the usage of these funds.

The plans are ready to go. From Homestead to the Broward line, and from the edge of the Everglades to Miami Beach, roads and highways will be improved, bus fleets will double, and many new routes added. Almost 90 miles of new rapid transit lines will be constructed.

Day by day, Miami-Dade County will begin to move again. It will help you get to work, go shopping, take your kids to school, and visit grandma and grandpa on Sunday.

All it needs now is your vote in November.

Alex Penelas  
Miami-Dade County Mayor



## Our dedicated employees instrumental in educating the public

Miami-Dade employees have always possessed an uncanny ability to rally around great causes. Our collaborative efforts have been galvanized following disasters and other events where our neighbors or colleagues have been impacted. We have led the charge in charitable giving and community service and we will continue doing so in the future. This fall we have another important challenge that we can rally around; a challenge which impacts each and every one of us...transportation.

We have a unique opportunity to pass the People's Transportation Plan that will generate the funds to finally begin putting a world-class transportation system in place. By creating a world-class transit system, Miami-Dade will become a more dynamic, international center of business and finance and the most accessible tourist destination.

The reason I mention our employees and our past community efforts is because they play a significant role in this referendum by merely educating our neighbors. Whether it's transportation-related or not, Miami-Dade employees are always there educating our residents on the wonderful services we provide. If the transportation referendum is approved on November 5, it will generate new revenues to be used exclusively for transportation projects and improvements.

With the approval of the People's Transportation Plan, the half penny sales tax generated will allow us to double our bus fleet, quadruple the length of our Metrorail system, provide free transit services to all senior citizens, create jobs, and improve our roads among other major benefits. Most importantly, all the spending will receive local, state and federal oversight.

So please tell your neighbors and loved ones about our plans. Please educate them on all the wonderful services we provide everyday. We are making tremendous strides in our community and people should know about it. Implementing a world-class transportation system is next.

For more information about the People's Transportation Plan, please call 305-884-7567 or visit **[www.trafficrelief.com](http://www.trafficrelief.com)**. Please don't hesitate to call me directly at 305-375-1032 or email me at **[manager@miamidade.gov](mailto:manager@miamidade.gov)**. I am so proud to work shoulder to shoulder with all of you, and don't forget – we're more than county employees, we're neighbors.



Steve Shiver  
County Manager



## And they're off!

### Parks hosts National Track Meet



Students participate in USATF meets.

*By Laura Phillips, Parks and Recreation*

More than 3,400 athletes from across the country competed in the USA Track and Field Youth Athletics National Championships, held at Tropical Park from July 3-7.

Drawing teams from coast to coast, including California and Puerto Rico, the USATF event is a must for serious track and field contenders. Olympic Gold Medalists Maurice Greene and Marion Jones began their track and field careers in meets sponsored by the USATF, the national governing body for the Olympic sports of track and field and long distance running.

"Miami-Dade Parks is proud to have been given the opportunity to host an event of this caliber," said Miami-Dade Parks director Vivian Donnell Rodriguez. "It was truly an honor to see these future Olympians make their mark on our turf."

Using staff from all divisions, about 300 Parks employees and volunteers worked the five-day event from sunrise to sunset and into the wee hours. Giving a gold-medal performance, staff carried out a multitude of duties, including registering athletes, selling admission tickets, providing telecommunications and computer services, transporting guests to and from the hotel, setting up equipment, mopping the rain-drenched track, and entertaining guests in the kids area and hospitality tent.

This is the first leg in Parks' race to host major amateur athletic events. Tropical Park will also be the site of the 2003 USATF National Junior Olympics from July 29-August 3.

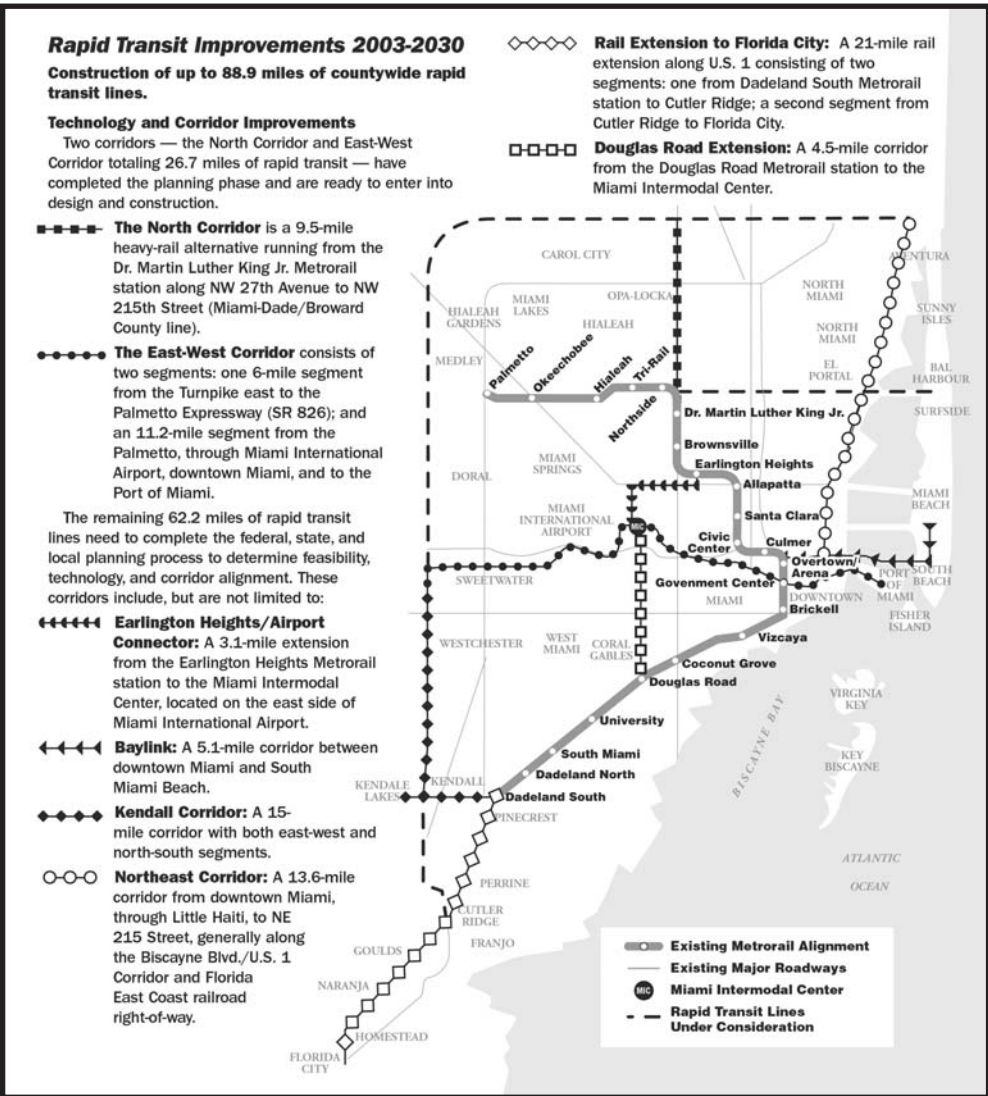
# People's Transportation Plan: Solutions to a shared problem

Many Miami-Dade residents have concluded that local funding is essential to finance a transportation plan. During recent public meetings and the two transportation summits, public transportation emerged as the community's top priority. Strong emphasis was placed on frequent bus service to all parts of the county. Jobs also appeared high on the list of priorities. The plan in action can generate up to 3,000 transit positions and thousands of construction and service jobs.

The People's Transportation Plan also calls for the creation of a Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust — a carefully selected group separate from government — to oversee spending. Use of the funds will be limited to transportation projects. In addition, municipalities will receive 20 percent of collected funds to launch transportation projects in their respective communities. State and federal oversight will also come into play with matching funds.

- The plan will also include:
- Free transportation for senior citizens 65 and over, regardless of annual income.
  - Free rides for everyone on Metromover.
  - Countywide bus service improvements, using minibuses and offering 15-minute or better rush hour service.
  - Building up to 88.9 miles of rapid transit featuring several new lines.
  - Upgrading the traffic signal system; accessible bus stops for people with disabilities; and street improvements in all areas of Miami-Dade.

To view the People's Transportation Plan online, log on anytime at [trafficrelief.com/](http://trafficrelief.com/).



## Bus service improvements 2003-2008

- Nearly double the bus fleet.
- Increase current service miles from 27 million to 45 million miles.
- Increase operating hours from 1.9 million to 3.3 million hours.
- Use minibuses on all new bus routes and in neighborhood/municipal circulator shuttle service.
- Add midday, Saturday, and Sunday service within 30 days of approval of a dedicated funding source.
- Provide 15-minute or better bus service during rush hour; 30-minute or better during other periods; 24-hour service in certain major corridors.
- Replace buses systematically to reduce operating cost and increase reliability.
- Construct bus pullout bays on major streets to expedite traffic flow.
- Implement grid system for bus service (north/south and east/west) on major streets and avenues with circulator service feeding main-line bus service and rapid-transit lines.
- Enhance and expand transit bus-stop signage countywide.
- Expand transit public information programs through enhanced marketing and advertising.
- Expand on successful municipal circulator programs.

## Major Highway & Road Improvements 2003-2013

- Construct major ingress/egress improvements in downtown Miami.
- Accelerate program to provide ADA accessibility to bus stops throughout the county.
- Complete construction of NW 87 Avenue between 154 Street and Miami Gardens Drive (183 Street).
- Create viable reverse-flow lanes on major thoroughfares.
- Fund overpass construction countywide where appropriate.
- Supplement funding to widen NW 62 Avenue, from NW 105 Street to NW 138 Street.
- Fund the Preliminary Engineering and Design Study of I-395
- Accelerate approved safety enhancements and lane improvements for Krome Avenue.

## Neighborhood Mobility Improvements

- Neighborhood improvements include modification of intersections; resurfacing of local and arterial roads; installation/repair of guardrails; installation of school flashing signals; and enhancement of greenways and bikeways. Such improvements also include replacement /repair of sidewalks, repair/installation of drainage, and landscape beautification.

## Municipal Improvements

- Cities to receive a *pro rata* share (determined by population) of 20 percent of surtax revenues annually.
- Cities will preserve the level of transportation funding currently in their Fiscal Year 2001-2002 budgets (i.e., their maintenance of effort dollars). Maintenance of effort excludes special bond issues for infrastructure improvements.
- Cities will dedicate 20 percent of their surtax funds to transit purposes. This would include circulators, bus shelters, bus pullout bays, or other transit-related infrastructure. If such utilization is inappropriate, Miami-Dade County will be afforded the opportunity to undertake such projects with those funds, or the funds will revert to the municipal pool for redistribution.



## Port of Miami receives award of excellence from International Ports

By Trenae Floyd, Seaport

Charles A. Towsley, seaport director for the Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami-Dade, recently received an Award of Excellence plaque from the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) for its Annual Port Directory. The directory, which aims to educate the public about trade, cruising and port facilities, was chosen as a winner for its clarity, design and cost-effectiveness.

"We publish this document annually to give our port users exposure and to inform everyone about the services offered at the Port of Miami," said Towsley. "It is an honor for one of the leading port-related organizations in the world to acknowledge the work that we do here in Miami-Dade County."



Towsley received the award during the AAPA's annual convention on September 25 in Palm Beach, Florida. The AAPA is an alliance of leading ports in the Western Hemisphere. The organization protects and advances the common interests of its diverse members as they connect their communities with the global transportation system.

## Miami-Dade Aviation Department names new assistant aviation director for security

By Inson Kim, Aviation

Miami-Dade Aviation director Angela Gittens has appointed Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) lieutenant Mark Forare as its new assistant Aviation director for security.

Forare manages the overall Aviation Department security operation and serves as its principal liaison with the MDPD and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). "Lt. Forare was chosen from an impressive pool of local and national candidates," said County Manager Steve Shiver. "We are proud that a member of our community and an employee of Miami-Dade County emerged as the best candidate to fill this critical position."

According to Aviation director Angela Gittens, "Mark comes to this position at the most critical juncture in the history of aviation security as we adapt to a new federal agency, the Transportation Security Administration, the federalization of passenger screening, and prepare for the introduction of 100 percent explosive detection screening for checked baggage."

Among other achievements, Forare has managed and executed over 300 high-risk police tactical operations countywide as well as hostage rescue in aircraft hijacking incidents. He has been an integral contributor to MDAD's approach to security which has far surpassed FAA requirements. Forare has a B.S. in criminal justice from Florida International University and is a licensed pilot.



Miami-Dade Police Department director Carlos Alvarez said he expects Lt. Forare, a 26-year veteran of the MDPD, to do an exceptional job in his new role since he spent the past six years at Miami International Airport. "Under the leadership of our airport major Michael Hammerschmidt, Lt. Forare has managed explosives detection with canine patrols, general investigations, motorcycle units, security escorts and special projects," said Alvarez.

Lieutenant Forare, a 26-year veteran of the Miami-Dade Police Department, was selected from an impressive pool of local and national candidates.

## A man with two hearts makes medical history in South Florida

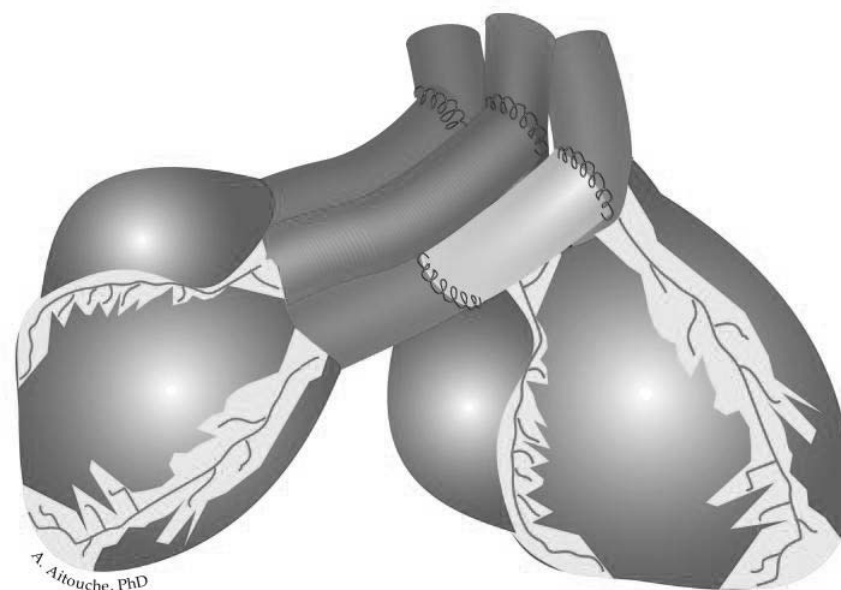
**University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center transplant team performs rare procedure**

Surgeons from the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center transplant team have given a patient a second heart without removing the original, diseased organ in the first-of-its-kind procedure in South Florida.

Castelio Campos, a 65-year-old Miami resident who suffered from congestive heart failure and life-threatening pulmonary hypertension, now has two hearts circulating blood through his body, following an operation on June 6, 2002.

"This type of surgery is more complex than a conventional heart transplant and is performed only when the former operation might not work," said Si Pham, M.D., director of the heart/lung transplant program at Jackson Memorial Hospital and professor of surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine. "Only about 100 of these cardiac transplant procedures have been done in the United States since 1970, and this is the first one in South Florida."

Heterotopic heart transplantation, as the surgical intervention is called, is performed when the patient has irreversible pulmonary hypertension from heart failure or when



the donor heart is from a much smaller individual than the recipient. In such cases, the donor's heart alone may not be strong enough to correct the problem.

In Campos' 10-hour procedure, the two hearts were placed together in a "piggyback" fashion. Now, the two organs work in tandem. Campo's original right ventricle pumps most of the deoxygenated blood through the pulmonary arteries to the lungs, while the left ventricle of the donor heart pumps the oxygenated blood through the aorta to the rest of the body.

"The patient's pulmonary hypertension is already beginning to improve and his prognosis is good," said Dr. Pham, who has performed similar heterotopic heart transplants at the University of Pittsburgh with good results.

Castelio Campos came to the United States from Cuba in 1990, after being in jail as a political prisoner for 15 years. He developed heart failure three years ago and was admitted to Jackson Memorial Hospital with idiopathic cardiomyopathy and subsequently evaluated for transplantation. He has been on the transplant waiting list since February 2001.

"I am grateful for this gift because it saved my life," says Campos of his new transplant. "I'd rather be in jail ten times than lying in a bed expecting to die every day, while waiting for a donor heart."

The UM/Jackson transplant center is the third largest in the United States having performed 464 transplants in 2001. It is the only center in the southeast to offer kidney, pancreas, kidney/pancreas, islet cell, liver, lung, heart, heart/lung, intestinal and multivisceral transplants. The center's graft survival rate is among the highest in the country.

# NEWS *and Notes*

## Solid Waste Management employee succeeds on two fronts

By Gayle R. Love, Solid Waste Management



Karatenomichi World Federation (KWF) World Champion Norberto Ortiz shows off his winning moves and his two first-place trophies.

The kudos keep coming for Norberto "Chino" Ortiz, a welder with the Miami-Dade Department of Solid Waste Management's Maintenance Division. Most recently, Ortiz was the 2002 Manager's Grand Prize winner for the Employee Suggestion Program. For his project, he received \$3,500 and was recognized with an Intangible Special Award. His recommendation, "Realign Compactor Bumpers", is helping to prevent damage to equipment and structures at the department's regional transfer stations.

In his spare time, Ortiz is making a name for himself in the highly competitive world of martial arts. In early August, Ortiz competed in the 2002 Karatenomichi World Federation (KWF) World Cup competition held in Miami. Ortiz competed against participants from around the world, winning 1st place trophies in the Black Belt Masters division for both Kata (technical combat) and Kumite (actual combat). Ortiz, a two-time KWF world champion, has practiced martial arts for more than 30 years and owns his own Karate school in Miami-Dade County. He credits his continued success in his professional and personal lives to his faith in God. "Without God, nothing that I have accomplished would be possible," said Ortiz.

## Hampton House Trust receives funding

By Larry Capp, Historic Hampton House Community Trust

The Historic Hampton House Community Trust, Inc. has received a \$20,000 grant by the Miami-Dade County Urban Economic Revitalization Task Force. The grant will assist in their efforts to acquire and restore the Hampton House Hotel property, built in 1953. Located in the Brownsville community of unincorporated Miami-Dade County, the Hampton House Hotel was the epicenter of black Miami during segregation. A group of community leaders led by Mayor Alex Penelas and Commissioner Barbara Carey-Shuler saved the property from the wrecking ball in December of last year and with the support of the County Commission designated it as a historic site.

## Enterprise Community Center has new digs

By Adriana Diaz Masvidal, Enterprise Community Center



The Enterprise Community Center (ECC) has moved to a new location at 3050 Biscayne Boulevard Suite 201, Miami, FL 33137. Part of the Miami-Dade County Empowerment Trust, a division of Community and Economic Development, the ECC provides technical assistance and free expert advice to businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the county and provides free business seminars and workshops on business development.

The ECC houses a resource library offering state-of-the-art business information that includes empowerment and enterprise zones, targeted urban areas and tax incentives for businesses wishing to expand and relocate in Miami-Dade County. For more information, please call 305-579-2730.

## Vendors can now do business "online... not in line"

By Jill Klaskin Press, Procurement Management

Doing business with Miami-Dade County just got easier with the introduction of the e-Procurement, the county's new electronic vendor enrollment process. The program was launched on July 10, at the Vendor Information Center in the Stephen P. Clark Center. This program cuts out paperwork and red tape and levels the playing field between small and large firms competing for lucrative county contracts. With a more competitive bid process, taxpayers come out the winner in the long run.



Pictured from L-R, County Manager Steve Shiver and Department of Procurement Management director Ted Lucas follow along with Stacey Silvera, vice president and secretary of Apricot Office Supplies.

## Haley Sofge Towers residents enjoy new benches thanks to community volunteers

By Sherra McLeod, Housing Agency



Pedro Sanchez and Alicia Diaz, residents of Haley Sofge Towers, share bench space with Lee Kraftchick as Patrick Brown, Art Velasquez, Rudy Perez and Madeline Clodfelter look on.

"I work closely with Lee on a number of issues," Clodfelter said. "After mentioning that he did volunteer work on a regular basis, I paired him with Public Housing director Rudy Perez. Together they came up with the idea of building two circular benches for the enjoyment of the residents of Haley Sofge Towers."

A team of 15 temple members, including parents and teenagers, helped him design and build the structure. "The residents were very nice and enthusiastically supported us," Kraftchick said. "Hey, we're very appreciative."

## Gun buy-back program set for November 9

By Rita Oramas, Police Department

The Miami-Dade Police Department, in conjunction with the Not One More organization, will be conducting a county-wide Gun Buy-Back at four sites in the county on Saturday, November 9 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Following are the locations of the sites:

- NFL/YET Center  
7090 NW 22 Avenue
- Goulds Park  
11350 SW 216 Street
- Tropical Park  
7900 SW 40 Street
- Pro Player Stadium  
199 Street NW 27 Avenue

Individuals who turn in their guns, no questions asked, will receive a \$50 merchandise voucher for each firearm collected. In 2000, the Miami-Dade Gun Buy-Back had its most successful program in South Florida with over 400 weapons turned in.

For more information contact captain Rita Oramas, 305-471-3319.

### GUN BUY BACK

Saturday, November 9, 2002 • 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

SAFE SCHOOL DAYS 2002

FREE GUN LOCKS

**Love Your Kids - Lock Your Gun**

- Turn in your gun to Miami-Dade Police and receive a **\$50 voucher** from Publix or Burdines.
- Lock your gun for safety and peace of mind!

PRO PLAYER STADIUM 199 St. NW 27 AVE.	GOULDS PARK GYM 11350 SW 216 St.
TROPICAL PARK 7900 SW 40 St. (Bird Road)	NFL/YET CENTER 7090 NW 22 AVE.

Sponsored by:  
**Miami-Dade Police Department**  
**NOT ONE MORE**  
**Crime Stoppers of Miami-Dade County**





## Team Metro partners with community to remodel elderly woman's home

By María De la Milera, Team Metro

On December 8, 2001, Maria Lomana's life changed. Team Metro helped the 84-year-old Cuban widow with no family remain in the Melrose home she and her husband saved to purchase 26 years ago. The home, discovered during a routine area inspection by Team Metro, was in dismal condition. Maria had been living in squalor.

Portions of Maria's home were virtually crumbling around her. The exterior paint had faded long ago; the ceiling revealed the construction beams; the kitchen had old and non-working appliances with cabinets barely attached and the bathroom sink was held up with the assistance of a laundry basket. These clearly were not conditions a person should be living in, let alone an elderly woman.

Upon receiving several housing suggestions from Team Metro, Maria still insisted on remaining in the place she called home. After all, she and her husband saved whatever they could from their meager wages as a hotel housekeeper and handyman to purchase this home in 1976.

Team Metro was not deterred by her decision. With \$20,000 in materials and 600 hours of labor donated by area merchants, neighbors, volunteers and employees from other Team Metro offices as well as from other Miami-Dade County agencies including the Miami-Dade Police Department Intergovernmental Bureau, the Department of Solid Waste Management, the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation and Miami-Dade Transit, her home was transformed.

The home, which had lost its appeal over the years, was finally restored to its original beauty...complete with all the furnishings and love it had when she first moved in.

## Miami-Dade County wants to hear from you!

Miami-Dade County is currently implementing a comprehensive resident satisfaction survey. The county is calling 3,000 residents to assess their level of satisfaction with county services and to identify issues that affect quality of life in our community. We are using the latest in surveying techniques to ensure that the results are 'action-oriented' and useful to county department managers. If you receive a call asking you to participate in the survey – please be sure to let your voice be heard! It is an excellent opportunity for you to express your ideas and concerns to county leadership. Complete coverage of the survey and the survey results will be featured in the winter issue of the *County Citizen*. For more information, feel free to contact Christa Erml at the Office of Performance Improvement, 305-349-6150.

# GOOD Service

## Office of Emergency Management holds Turkey Point Drill

By Thomas Keane, Office of Emergency Management

On August 27 Miami-Dade Emergency Management conducted its annual Turkey Point Nuclear (PTN) Plant Exercise. The drill involved a Level three advanced to full Level four activation of the Miami-Dade Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Representatives from the following agencies were on hand to participate in the drill: Miami-Dade Personnel Department; Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR); e-Government; Office of the Mayor; State Division of Emergency Management; Public Safety; Human Services; Monroe County; Homestead; Florida City; Palm Beach County OEM; and Infrastructure representatives.



Participants in the recent Miami-Dade emergency management drill.

In an actual Turkey Point Nuclear power plant emergency, evacuation of residents, businesses, schools, day care facilities and health care facilities within the 10 mile emergency planning zone (EPZ) around the plant may be required. A focus of the exercise was the use of transportation assets for evacuation. Miami-Dade Transit (MDT), who requested to participate in this exercise, came ready to play. In past PTN exercises, Miami-Dade Transit's evacuation procedures were evaluated solely by interviewing personnel and reviewing plans. Never before were they required to demonstrate their ability to carry them out.

At the emergency classification of "Alert," MDT set their plan in action. Information flowed from the EOC representative to their dispatch facility and then on to bus operators. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives were staged at MDT's Coral Way facility and the Evacuation Command Post. At "Site Area Emergency" equipment was staged and distributed to bus operators. Having been through radiological awareness training, they quickly ensured dosimeters were zeroed and attached them to clothing. At approximately 2:00pm, the plant notified the State Warning Point (SWP) of a "General Emergency." With this information, OEM called for the evacuation of Emergency Planning Zones (EPZ) 2, 3 + 4. MDT identified their pick up locations, planned their routes and dispatched buses.

Tom Reynolds, FEMA Region IV RAC chairman, gave high praise to MDT's ability to carry out this procedure and willingness to participate in the exercise to the extent they did. Never before in this region had the evacuation procedure for a nuclear plant exercise been demonstrated to this degree. Though the original objective called for the mobilization of 10 buses, MDT exceeded expectations by mobilizing and staging a total of 40 buses at the Evacuation Command Post. In post drill analysis, the consensus of participants was that the drill went smoothly with only minor adjustments needed.

## Medical director works tirelessly to improve services

By chief Duke Adkinson, Fire-Rescue

The pay is next to nothing for Dr. Donald Rosenberg and his hours are comparatively long for a part-time position. But he loves his job as Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's medical director, which earns him just one dollar a year for putting in 40 hours every week.

Aside from his responsibilities with Fire Rescue, Rosenberg is a practicing cardiologist at Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH), professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Miami, and an affiliate faculty member of the American Heart Association. He also provides services to Florida Power and Light (FPL) and various municipal police departments including Miami-Dade, Bay Harbor, Indian Creek, Medley, Miami Shores and Pinecrest.



Dr. Donald Rosenberg

Rosenberg was one of the pioneers in pre-hospital care and advocated the belief that paramedics and emergency medical technicians were capable of providing much more in emergency treatment. He led a study several years ago to test the ability of the responding paramedic in conducting and correctly interpreting a 12-lead ECG. The study showed that the paramedic was correct 97percent of the time. He anticipated these results because he had been among those physicians who believed paramedics could be huge assets to the medical community.

Without that study and Rosenberg's early faith in the paramedic, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue could not have implemented an even more significant project. Under his direction, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue paramedics were trained to administer clot-busting drugs to heart attack patients before they reached the emergency room. Needless to say, numerous lives have been saved as part of this unprecedented treatment.

When Rosenberg learns of a new drug or treatment, he never hesitates to relinquish some of the authority traditionally reserved for doctors and never doubts that paramedics can handle the task. If there is a benefit to the patient, it then becomes a matter of whether it is affordable and how it can best be utilized. It is this tireless devotion that led to Rosenberg receiving the Raymond H. Alexander Award for Medical Director of the Year and being added to the Best Doctors, Inc. Directory, a coveted peer-review database of the leading physicians in the country.

Rosenberg's vision and dedication have kept Miami-Dade Fire Rescue on the cutting edge of medical technology and patient care. Because of his leadership, the department has helped to shape the standard of emergency medical services for the future. And with all his responsibilities, it would seem as though he'd throw in the towel at some point. Well, the good doctor isn't worried about spreading himself too thin because his schedule at JMH has reduced only slightly, while he still dedicates a full load to Fire Rescue. Thankfully, for the county, his effort is like the Energizer bunny. He keeps going and going and going. Bravo doc!

# DIRECT

*from the District*

## District 1

### Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson discusses Charter Amendments with UP-PAC members

Miami Dade County Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson discussed the 14 proposed Charter Amendments on the September 10 ballot and answered questions at the August 24 meeting of UP- PAC (Un-represented People's Positive Action Council), a weekly community breakfast forum. The meeting, held at Greater New Bethel Baptist Church, 17025 NW 22 Avenue, gave attendees an opportunity to preview the ballot and ask questions about the proposed amendments.



Commissioner Ferguson speaks with members of UP-PAC.

## District 2

### Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle "hits the streets" with improvements

Miami-Dade County Commissioners Dorrin D. Rolle, Jose "Pepe" Cancio, Sr. and County Manager Steve Shiver were among the many people who recently gathered at Tropical Glass Company to celebrate the groundbreaking of Phase II of the 7th Avenue Sewer Improvement Project.

The Phase II of the project includes the installation and start-up of gravity sewers and a pump station that will serve all properties fronting 7 Avenue, between NW 7 Avenue and Interstate 95, between Little River Canal and NW 79 Street. Phase I of the project included installation of a sewer system and larger water lines.

Both Commissioner Rolle and Shiver emphasized the economic and commercial benefits of the improvements being made to the area's water and sewer system. With the addition of the new sewer lines, the area will be able to attract new business to the community and accommodate expanding commercial activities. In addition, the newly expanded water lines in Phase I allows for greater fire protection for the area's businesses and residents.



Commissioner Rolle second from right also helped begin the 95th Street Beautification Project, which will include a re-paved 95 Street between NW 7 and 27 Avenues with palm trees planted on the roadside. With the expectation of a new and improved 95 Street also came a new name, in honor of the late Rev. Dr. Arthur Jackson Jr.

## District 3

### Commissioner Barbara Carey-Shuler helps organize Youth Crime Task Force, MusicFest Miami

The 2nd annual MusicFest Miami was a joyous occasion for many South Florida residents thanks to numerous sponsors, event coordinators, and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Carey-Shuler. Commissioner Carey-Shuler and City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz spearheaded the outdoor family festival held during Labor Day weekend at various venues throughout the county.



Commissioner Shuler shares a lighthearted moment with City of Miami officials Mayor Manny Diaz (left) and Commissioner Joe Sanchez during the 2nd annual MusicFest Miami held Labor Day weekend.

Billed as the event to "celebrate our diversity," MusicFest Miami did just that as more than 20,000 people gathered to enjoy live performances, cultural arts and crafts villages, ethnic cuisines, a multi-cultural parade, children's activities, and a football game between Florida A&M University and the University of Miami.

Prior to the MusicFest, Commissioner Carey-Shuler was instrumental in getting an ordinance passed by the Board of County Commissioners to create a permanent Youth Crime Task Force (YCTF) that will serve as an advisory board to the County Commission and will address issues of youth crime and youth weapons violence prevention.

"The YCTF is important to our community because there are far too many resources available to our kids that help them do wrong," said Commissioner Carey-Shuler. "The task force will analyze possible solutions to this problem and provide recommendations for a county-wide plan to the Board of County Commissioners. In other communities and cities throughout the nation, there's been a significant drop in youth violence because of various crime prevention initiatives. Our goal is to have the same results."

The first YCTF was created in 1997 as a resolution required to be passed by the Board of Miami-Dade Commissioners each year. The original YCTF services encompassed a broad range of areas targeting critical community issues such as the "Early Intervention to Improve Academic Performance," the "Juvenile Gun Offender Program," and "Improving Community Control."

## District 4

### Florida State Representative Sally Heyman elected Miami-Dade Commissioner



Concluding her fourth term in the Florida House of Representatives, Sally Heyman has a solid background of public service and a "hands-on" style. Prior to being elected to the Florida Legislature in 1994, Sally served as an elected council member for the city of North Miami Beach for seven years, and worked for the city of Miami and North Miami Beach Police Departments.

Sally has an educational and professional background in criminal justice and law enforcement; a bachelor of arts from the University of Florida, a master of science from Nova University and a juris doctorate from the University of Miami. In addition to being a member of the Florida Bar, Sally holds state and national certification in crime prevention.

She is a crime and loss prevention specialist and attorney, and has her own consulting firm specializing in premises liability and criminal victimization.

Sally displays untiring energy in supporting human issues legislation, especially in the areas of funding social services, protection/care for women, children and vulnerable adults; public education funding; protecting personal freedoms and promoting responsible gun laws.

The nature of the majority of her sponsored legislation is public safety. She has successfully passed into law, bills addressing domestic violence, juvenile justice, boat safety, false alarms, handicap parking revisions, increased penalties for elder and child abuse, debt collection courts, end of life directives, agriculture theft, pest control regulations, outreach for high-risk pregnant women, eminent domain and adoption-foster care.

Sally grew up in South Florida and attended public schools in Miami-Dade County. She has been and remains active in charitable, women, political and community organizations and activities.



# Commissioner Bruno Barreiro - District 5

## Federal Transit Administration awards Tri-rail \$26.7 million for final phase of Double Track Program



Jennifer Dorn, administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, recently announced in Miami that Tri-Rail had been awarded \$26.7 million for Segment 5 of its Double Track Corridor Improvement Program. When completed in 2005, the program will enable Tri-Rail to increase commuter rail service by running morning and afternoon rush-hour trains at 20-minute headways (time between trains).

The greater frequency in service will help to relieve South Florida's congested highways, while providing improved connectivity and a seamless transit experience.

"There is no more crucial issue facing South Florida than the need for the development of an efficient regional public transportation system. We at the FTA are pleased to support Tri-Rail's effort to become the spine of a critical mass transit network connecting Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Counties," said Dorn. These funds and the previous \$25.6 million dollars provide a total of more than \$52,400,000 in FTA New Starts funds for the project. Total allocations from the Federal Government exceed \$328 million.

"Tri-Rail is extremely grateful to the Federal Transit Administration and administrator Jennifer Dorn for their support of this essential public transportation initiative," said Miami-Dade Commissioner Bruno Barreiro, recently appointed Chair of Tri-Rail's Board of Directors. "I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation to the Florida Legislative Delegation, our senators and representatives, whose efforts on our behalf played a major role toward our receipt of this funding."

Tri-Rail's Segment 5 Project is approximately 45 miles in length and consists of the installation of a second track on the remaining single tracked areas of the South Florida Rail Corridor, construction of 12 new bridges, 5 replacement bridges and one high-level fixed bridge across the New River; construction of a new maintenance and layover facility at the north end of the corridor, an upgraded signal system, grade crossing improvements along the entire 72-mile corridor, and the procurement of rail revenue vehicles.

Project benefits include: increased midday and weekend train service; greater comfort/improved protection from the weather at stations; greater scheduling flexibility; reduced travel time; more convenient connections with buses and Metrorail; more efficient movement of goods and freight; reduced traffic congestion and overall, a more reliable public transportation system for South Florida commuters.

## District 6

### Unopposed Commissioner Rebeca Sosa continues to serve District 6

Commissioner Rebeca Sosa will continue to serve the residents of Miami-Dade County District 6 for four more years since there were no candidates challenging her bid for re-election prior to the filing deadline in late July. "It is an honor for me and also a strong mandate to keep working hard for my District," said Commissioner Sosa. "I'll keep the open door policy that is bringing so many changes to District 6. I am pleased that I may continue my accountability to the residents of my district and all of Miami-Dade."



Commissioner Sosa and City of Miami Commissioner Tomas Regalado (far left) try out a pressure cleaner on the underpass of the bridge at Northwest 57th Avenue and 14th Street while Jose Abreu, FDOT District Six Secretary, looks on.

Soon after sealing her re-election, Commissioner Sosa hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on August 21 at the bridge over Northwest 57 Avenue and 14 Street, to mark the beginning of a clean-up project by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in several areas of West Miami-Dade County. This summer, the FDOT agreed to a petition from Commissioner Sosa to clean up graffiti, garbage and overgrown shrubs from the concrete slopes and areas inside the fences surrounding bridges in West Miami-Dade. Commissioner Sosa also had the support of City of Miami Commissioner Tomas Regalado with the petition. "I'm sure other residents of West Miami-Dade were as pleased as I was not to see anymore graffiti

at our overpasses while driving to work or to their homes," said Commissioner Sosa. "I am very glad that FDOT was responsive to this request."

Commissioner Sosa was also honored in Washington, D.C. in July with one of two Anna Maria Arias Congressional Trail Blazer Awards presented by *Latina Style* magazine in a ceremony on Capitol Hill. The commissioner was one of the first two recipients of the award, which recognized Latin American women whose contributions to the legislative process have had significant impact on Hispanic women across the country. The Anna Maria Arias Congressional Trail Blazer Award was named in honor of *Latina Style* magazine's late founder, publisher and editor who, at the age of 41, lost her battle with aplastic anemia. The School Board of Miami-Dade County also acknowledged Commissioner Sosa with a proclamation for her work in education and government and for receiving the Congressional Trail Blazer Award.



Commissioner Sosa with representatives from Latina Style magazine in Washington, D.C. where she received the Anna Maria Arias Congressional Trail Blazer Award for her work in education and government.

## District 7

### Commissioner Jimmy L. Morales hosts karaoke fundraiser, kickoff of MicroLoan program

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jimmy L. Morales was literally in the spotlight during one of his community activities this summer. In August, Commissioner Morales, a self-proclaimed karaoke king, challenged the community to bring their best voices to South Miami's Sunset Tavern to raise money for the National Alliance for Autism Research. The event was also a show of support for his eight-year-old daughter Nora, who was diagnosed six years ago with autism. During the event, Nora joined her father onstage to sing "God Bless America."

"Autism not only has no known cause, but sadly no known cure," said Commissioner Morales. "While I understand the seriousness of autism, this Karaoke Challenge is a more entertaining way of raising money and awareness for this disorder, which affects one out of 500 children in South Florida." The karaoke event raised more than \$2,900.



Commissioner Morales sings to a packed audience during a karaoke fundraiser for autism last August in South Miami.

Commissioner Morales was active in the business community as well this summer. He joined Gil Colon, District deputy director

of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in presenting checks of \$125,000 to four diverse Miami-Dade economic development agencies on August 9 as part of the county's new MicroLoan program. The four organizations were: The Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce/Miami-Dade Empowerment Zone Trust; City of Homestead/Haitian Organization of Women; Women's Business Development Center; and Tools for Change.

Last October, the Miami-Dade County Commission approved a proposal sponsored by Commissioner Morales to create a pilot micro-lending program designed to boost economic development in deprived areas and strengthen the county's small business community.

"Many small businesses have limited access to capital because they are considered high-risk by conventional lending institutions," said Commissioner Morales. "In addition, most not-for-profit economic development organizations in Miami-Dade County lack the experience to meet the requirements of the federal SBA program. Now, as a result of this initiative, these 'micro lenders' can help invigorate the economy and work toward being qualified as federal SBA-approved lenders."

# DIRECT

*from the District*

## District 8

### Keys to success: Commissioner Katy Sorenson sheds light on key issues

In 1999, Commissioner Katy Sorenson, was able to secure \$15 million in the county budget to install water and sewer mains down U.S. 1. The project finished in July of this year on time and on budget. This major infrastructure improvement from SW 216 Street to SW 268 Street will encourage businesses to locate along U.S. 1, a major transportation corridor.



The groundbreaking for the long-awaited South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center will take place soon and will be the centerpiece to revitalizing this area. It will be located on six acres next to the South Dade Government Center and across the street from the Cutler Ridge Mall.

In late December last year, the County Commission approved

Traditional Neighborhood Development zoning for Naranja Lakes, in order to promote a mid-to high-end, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development. The area is bounded by SW 268 Street on the north, SW 288 Street on the south, the Florida Turnpike Extension on the east and U.S. 1 on the west. The property was recently sold to a developer and will have the benefit of tax incentives to help provide for roads, lighting, water and sewer and other infrastructure needs for the area. Commissioner Sorenson is also investigating the possibility of locating a charter school in the development.

Commissioner Sorenson is proud of the work of the Miami-Dade Police Department, the Community Oriented Police Program and neighborhood Crime Watch groups. Together, they have made an impact as the crime rate in Miami-Dade County is the lowest in a decade. While homicides were down 12 percent countywide last year, homicides decreased in south Miami-Dade by 26 percent. Robberies were down by 4 percent countywide, and decreased by 9 percent in south Miami-Dade. Overall, robberies are at their lowest since 1979. Generally, violent crimes in unincorporated Miami-Dade County, including homicide, robbery, forcible sex offenses, aggravated assault, were down 4 percent last year, but down 41 percent from 1996. That is significantly better than Atlanta, Tampa and Washington, D.C. and better than the national average.

## District 9

### Commissioner Dennis C. Moss participates in WASD ceremony, initiates water safety lessons for residents

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis C. Moss took part in the much anticipated U.S. 1 Water and Sewer Improvements in south Miami-Dade last July with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Commissioner Moss joined fellow Commissioner Katy Sorenson, District 8, during the ceremony that was held at the Bargain Town Flea Market in Homestead. The U.S. 1 Water and Sewer Improvements are part of the larger U.S. 1 Corridor Projects, which include expansion of the South Miami-Dade Busway (by the Miami-Dade Transit Department) and an upgrade of U.S. 1 (by the Florida Department of Transportation). The Water and Sewer Department (WASD) installed water and sewer lines as well as with fire hydrants and sewer pump stations along U.S. 1 from SW 200 Street to SW 232 Street, and from SW 264 Street to SW 268 Street. These improvements are expected to help residents and business owners in the area, providing the needed infrastructure for economic growth.

After learning about the drowning death of a six-year-old boy at the Running Brook apartments, Commissioner Moss initiated a "Learn to Swim" program that was held last June at the South Miami Heights complex.

"Like so many other tragedies involving children, this one could have been avoided," said Commissioner Moss. "We wanted residents of all ages to benefit from this program because water safety is important, particularly in South Florida."



Commissioner Moss congratulates a young participant for her completion of the South Miami Heights "Learn to Swim" program.

Commissioner Moss joins local dignitaries as they prepare to cut a ribbon signifying the opening of the U.S. 1 Water and Sewer Improvements in south Miami-Dade County. From left to right are: William M. Brant (WASD director); State Representative Edward B. Bullard; former State Representative Larcenia J. Bullard; County Commissioner Katy Sorenson; Commissioner Moss; and Pedro Hernandez (assistant county manager).

## District 10

### Commissioner Javier D. Souto's personal message to county employees

I want to thank the voters of District 10 who elected me to a fourth consecutive term on the Board of County Commissioners on July 23. I want to especially extend a thank you to each and every employee of Miami-Dade County, because it is you who allow me to provide quality service to the residents of our community.

My entire district falls in the unincorporated area of Miami-Dade County, so my constituents and I depend on several departments within the county's infrastructure to maintain our quality of life. For space reasons, I cannot mention each department that deserves special recognition for the services they provide but I will acknowledge some, which include: the police and fire rescue personnel who work hard to ensure our safety; the Team Metro Code Enforcement officers who enforce all of the codes and regulations to provide residents of the Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA) with a decent neighborhood; the Solid Waste inspectors and employees who provide the best solid waste collection services anywhere and keep our environment clean; and the Building, Code Compliance and Zoning departments respectively, who make certain that every commercial and residential structure built in an unincorporated area, as well as every home addition or remodeling project, meets proper standards to assure residents' protection from hurricanes, fires and other potential hazards. Without a doubt, the aesthetics of these structures will protect the integrity of a neighborhood and have an impact on property values.

My legislative priorities have always included public safety, consumer protection, and preserving the quality of life for the community I serve. I believe that government's main responsibility should be to provide security for its citizens, especially for youth and children. This is why, for instance, I sponsored legislation requiring Miami-Dade Public Libraries to install filtering software to prevent Internet access to pornography on its computer terminals by minors. I sponsored a law requiring all retail establishments in Miami-Dade County to install display screens on their cash registers, allowing consumers to view their transactions as the merchandise is being charged. These display screens are now available in the drive-thru at fast food restaurants. I initiated the Mini-Urban Forest Program with elementary and middle school students, allowing them to reclaim abandoned vacant lands by planting trees. To date, we have planted seven of these Mini-Urban Forests in the Westchester area. Additionally, I drafted two laws offering residents of Miami-Dade County greater protection against noise pollution.

There is more work to be done and I welcome your feedback, so please contact my office at 305-222-2116 or come to my town meetings and participate in our government. Remember, we are members of the best democracy in the world. It is in our best interest to keep our great system of government working well.

Commissioner Javier D. Souto Town Meetings are held at 7pm on the second Thursday of every month at the West Dade Regional Library (9445 SW 24 Street, 2 Floor) and on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Winston Park Club House (8100 SW 132 Avenue), except in August and legal holidays.



Commissioner Souto with members of the Miami-Dade Police Bicycle Patrol Unit, Doral District, during the inauguration of the "Community Oriented Policing" program at Westchester Mall.



## District 11

### Commissioner Joe Martinez's initiatives promote road safety and tax relief for seniors

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Joe A. Martinez hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 16 for a newly installed traffic light at the northwest corner of Kendall Drive and SW 162 Avenue. Commissioner Martinez had been working with the Public Works Department to ensure the project's completion.

"Acting upon the concerns of my constituents, my office contacted the Miami-Dade County Police Department and ordered a feasibility study," said Commissioner Martinez. "Once the study was completed, it was determined that this intersection was in dire need of a traffic signal to avoid future accidents."

A resolution sponsored by Commissioner Martinez urging the Florida Legislature to freeze tax assessments on property owned by senior citizens was passed by the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, July 23, 2002. Commissioner Martinez believes senior citizens, particularly those on fixed incomes, are least able to afford rising property taxes even with the option of additional homestead exemption. According to Commissioner Martinez, "the current homestead exemptions as provided by Article VII, Section 6(f), of the Florida Constitution, is barely enough to assist some senior citizens. This group of residents is vulnerable to many things in our society and not having enough money to afford necessities such as food and medicine is enough pressure. In my district, where the senior population is significant, one less financial burden would be good news to their ears."



Commissioner Martinez joins local citizens at the ribbon cutting ceremony held in honor of the traffic light installation on Kendall Drive and SW 162 Avenue.

## District 12

### Sweetwater Mayor Jose "Pepe" Diaz joins Miami-Dade Commission



Mayor Jose "Pepe" Diaz was born in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, but has called Sweetwater, Florida home for more than 30 years.

Diaz graduated from Coral Park Senior High School and attended Miami-Dade Community College. He served our country in the United States Marines Corps, active and reserves, for six years. In 1986, he began his public service as chairman of the city of Sweetwater Police Retirement Trust Fund Board, where he served until 1991. From 1992 through 1999, he served on the city commission, a majority of that time as president of the commission and Vice Mayor. In May of 1999, Diaz became Mayor of the city of Sweetwater.

Diaz worked tirelessly for Sweetwater over the years trying to overcome various issues, including flooding. Diaz has worked, both as a commissioner and as mayor, to obtain an answer to this problem that has left the city's residents flooded out of their homes on numerous occasions over the past several years.

He has also spent countless hours lobbying in Tallahassee and Washington, DC, successfully acquiring funds necessary for a Comprehensive Street Drainage Project. He continues working with the local and state emergency management teams as well as with the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to avoid any future floods.

Thanks to Diaz's hard work, the city of Sweetwater has improved dramatically. He has not only kept the city's streets clean but, most importantly, has improved the way of life for its citizens by developing more youth and elderly programs.

## District 13

### Miami-Dade Commissioner Natacha Seijas secures funding for S.M.A.R.T. Program

The Miami-Dade Public Library System will once again offer its free math, science and reading tutor program to all children kindergarten through 12th grade, thanks to the efforts of Miami-Dade Commissioner Natacha Seijas, who in the past donated funds from her district office in order to keep the project alive. The program, appropriately titled S.M.A.R.T. (Science Math and Reading Tutoring), will be held every Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm, from October through June. Certified and experienced teachers will be on hand at all 34 branches of the library system to offer free tutoring and homework help.

"It was important for me to do all that I could in order to have the Miami-Dade Library System continue providing this free service," said Commissioner Seijas.

S.M.A.R.T. was created in response to the overwhelming requests from both children and parents for homework assistance. Originally, to answer these inquiries, the library set up homework centers in each of its branches. These centers featured an area of the library with computers and reference materials appropriate for homework assistance. As time went on, the demand grew even greater, and as librarians spent more and more time acting as homework mentors, the need for certified tutors became more apparent. S.M.A.R.T. answers the need for experienced tutors by providing certified teachers.

In addition to mentoring the student, parents are encouraged to attend the sessions as well so that they may learn how to continue the tutoring experience at home. Parents will be taught that knowing how to mentor is sometimes more important than knowing the subject.

Funding for S.M.A.R.T. was made possible as part of the .10 mil increase to the library system's budget voted on unanimously by the Board of County Commissioners in September 2001.

For information on how to become a S.M.A.R.T. student, call your closest branch of the Miami-Dade Public Library System.



Commissioner Natacha Seijas assists students participating in the SMART program at the Miami Lakes Branch Library.

# FAREWELL *Stories*

## Senator Gwen Margolis looks back at eight years of service as County Commissioner



After eight years on the Miami-Dade County Commission, with six of them as chairperson, Commissioner Gwen Margolis, District 4, has accomplished more than one may deem possible in that length of time.

"It's hard to believe that eight years have already passed," said Commissioner Gwen Margolis. "It seems as though it was just yesterday I was appointed chairperson of the commission. I will truly miss the excitement and the diversity of the people I work with daily."

Among her accomplishments, Commissioner Margolis passed legislation enabling both the cities of Aventura and Sunny Isles Beach to incorporate. She worked on the initial Human Rights Ordinance, using her knowledge of

parliamentary procedure coupled with her determination to help get this passed. She's helped push for the beaches re-nourishment, contacting the agencies responsible for the area and providing assistance. As chair of the Tourist Development Council, Commissioner Margolis has helped triple the Miami-Dade County Cultural Budget. This includes the construction of the Performing Arts Center on Biscayne Boulevard to provide easy access to northeast Miami-Dade residents, along with the addition of extra funding for cultural programs and activities throughout the county.

Commissioner Margolis has worked on a variety of initiatives, including promoting safeguards for absentee ballots; fighting to get the state to accept its Article V responsibilities to fund \$110 million now borne by the county; organizing a North Dade Government Center feasibility study; pushing for the advertising of penalties incurred by lobbyists failing to register; helping in the establishment of term limits for the Board of County Commissioners; and passing ethics legislation.

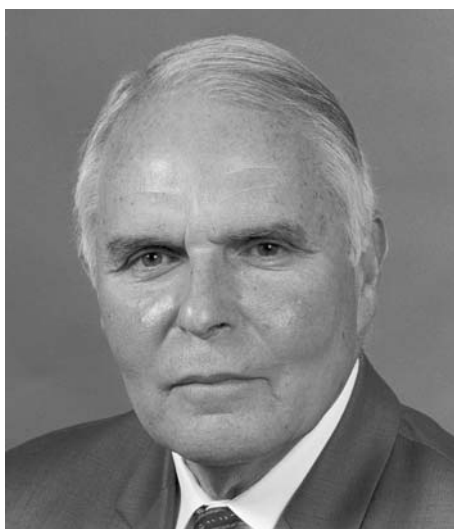
Her desire to improve public safety compelled her to organize the installation of an additional fire rescue helicopter at Opa Locka Airport and the construction of a state-of-the-art fire station at Point East in northeast Miami-Dade County.

Commissioner Margolis was the driving force behind the imposed waiting period and criminal history check of those attempting to purchase firearms. She passed an ordinance requiring all firearms to have locking devices. She's also one of several leaders filing a lawsuit against the gun industry.

"It was important for our community's safety that we implemented these procedures. It had become all too easy for guns to be purchased in Miami-Dade County," added Commissioner Margolis.

Although Commissioner Margolis is leaving the county, she has plans to continue working for the people as one of our Florida state senators, taking with her the knowledge of local government.

## Commissioner José "Pepe" Cancio Sr. known as "man for the people" in his five months in office



On May 7, 2002, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Cancio, Sr. was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to fill the vacancy of former District 12 Commissioner Miriam Alonso. Though he did not seek re-election in September, Commissioner Cancio had a profound influence on his community in the five months he was in office.

Among his accomplishments were realigning the boundaries of District 2 permitting more candidates to run for the seat. He also spearheaded numerous road projects. One example is the opening and completion of 107 Avenue between NW 58 and 50 Streets.

"The road was a hazard to motorists for many years and the community was calling out for help," said Commissioner Cancio. "I'm extremely happy to see that our residents can now commute in a safer environment and that our Public Works Department did their part by responding in a timely manner."

But as the saying goes, "all good things must come to an end." Soon, Commissioner Cancio will leave his seat to a newly elected commissioner, but he won't forget the memories or the friendships he's made along the way.

Commissioner Cancio will leave behind a legacy – a legacy of friendship, leadership and good will.

## Miami-Dade Transit hosts Hispanic Heritage tours

Miami-Dade Transit will conduct a series of tours focusing on bringing an educational and cultural perspective to Miami-Dade County residents with an interest in learning more about the history of Hispanics and their contributions to South Florida.

*Herencia Hispana* (Hispanic Heritage) tours will be offered in English and in Spanish, at no charge to the public, aboard air-conditioned Metrobuses each Saturday during the month of October (Hispanic Heritage Month). Specially trained Miami-Dade Transit employees will narrate the tours.

*Herencia Hispana* will cover topics ranging from the early history of Spaniards in South Florida to present-day migratory trends and will include visits to the Freedom Tower, the Latin American Art Museum and a tour of Calle Ocho.



The tours will depart from the Stephen P. Clark Center located at 111 NW 1 Street in downtown Miami and will last approximately 3-3 1/2 hours. Departures are at 9am, 9:30am and 10:00am. Reservations are required.

For more information and to reserve your seat call 305-884-7567, Monday through Thursday from 9am to 4pm and specify if you would like your tour narrated in English or in Spanish.



## Miami-Dade employee files: new paperless file room helps save space and costs

By Loretta Cronk, e-Government

Staring at over 10 million pieces of employment-related paper packed in the county's central file room, Miami-Dade County Manager Steve Shiver had one thing to say... "I'm really glad we're putting this online." And under the visionary leadership of the County Manager, chief information officer Randy Witt, and former Employee Relations director Maria Casellas, online it is!

Using the capabilities of an Electronic Document Management System (EDMS), Jay Flynn, manager of Administrative Services in the Employee Relations Department (ERD), has begun to turn his paper file room into bits and bytes. By optically scanning, indexing and storing literally millions of pieces of paper, ERD is saving space, trees and money. The implementation of EDMS has already resulted in operational efficiencies for the department, and office space savings are estimated at \$45,000 per year for the central file room alone. Complementing the scanning initiative is a workflow component that will allow the county to automate the handling of certain documents online, from beginning to end. What does this mean? Paper need not be generated at all.

ERD's central file room is filled with over 45,000 employee folders jam-packed with documents that track each employee's career with the county. With some folders expanding up to two inches thick, this totals about seven million individual documents. But it doesn't stop there. Most departments maintain their own employee files (although not considered the 'official copies') essentially duplicating much of the information found in the ERD file room.

Enter technology, with a solution called electronic document management (EDMS). Jay's woes resulted in an EDMS working group headed up by CIO Randy Witt and a pilot project supervised by the County's EDMS Program Manager, Jose Nodarse, who applied this technology to optically image the contents of the employee files, create intelligent online data entry forms, and automate the workflow and approval process. The contents of an employee's folder are now available online to those with the requisite security access, and access to certain items in the folder can be blocked if one does not have the required level of security.

In the case of Personnel Change Documents (PCD's), departments are able to enter information such as promotions and transfers into an online form, which then undergoes an electronic routing process to obtain necessary approvals. When finalized, the form becomes part of the employee's electronic folder. The new system has been rolled out countywide to all departmental personnel officers, who are now able to view employee files online. In addition, the information in an employee's file is synchronized daily with the county's mainframe based payroll system.

The benefits and results of this type of technology are impressive. The entire process is paperless, secure, reduces data entry by approximately 40 percent, allows for immediate location of documents and frees up vast quantities of expensive office space. In the coming months, ERD plans to add employee self services online so employees can access their own files to update information such as death beneficiary forms and change of address.

"The savings we can achieve through automation of our internal processes are tremendous," said Shiver.



The new system will replace the files shown in this room.

## Corrections campaign benefits underprivileged children

By Melanie Miller, Corrections Department

Eager children with curious eyes look at book bags piled high on the cafeteria tables. They have yet to find out what is inside – corrections paraphernalia including folders, pencils, school calendars, rulers, notebook paper, scissors, erasers, pencils, sharpeners, glue sticks, dictionaries, compass, calculators and protractors.



Officer Gary Gourdnet with students from Toussaint L'Overture Elementary

This year the Corrections and Rehabilitation Department was able to distribute over 1,450 book bags and supplies to children at eight different schools throughout the north and south communities. The purpose of the **CORRECTIONS CARES - BACK TO SCHOOL** campaign is to reach out and touch children in Miami-Dade County who are normally overlooked and do not have the resources needed to begin the school year.

The students from Toussaint L'Overture, 500 Role Model Academy of Excellence, Thomas Jefferson Middle, Sweetwater Elementary, Frederick Douglass Elementary, Leisure City K-8, Bel-Aire Elementary and Arthur and Polly Mays Middle

showed their appreciation to the Corrections Department for providing them with the necessary tools needed for better learning.

Other departments within the county that contributed to this effort were Public Works; Finance Department; County Attorney's office; Commissioner Dennis Moss' office; Library; Planning and Zoning; Water and Sewer Department and MDPD – Doral Station, Crime Analysis Unit. Special thanks to Toll Systems, Inc.; General Asphalt Company; BJ's Wholesale Club, Costco Wholesale, Educational Products, Inc., Office Depot, South Florida Resource Conservation and Development Council, Sun Manufacturing, Walmart, Target, Cardinal Enterprises of Florida, 7-Dippity, Inc., Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc. and Keefe Coffee Supply Inc.



Left to right: assistant county manager Samuel Williams with Corrections director Lois Spears and deputy director Charles J. McRay

Lorah Park Elementary, Lillie C. Evans, Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church and Christ Crusaders also received book bags and school supplies from the department.

The Corrections Cares program sponsors Thanksgiving Meals, Food Baskets and a Holiday Toy Drive for the needy. If you would like to participate in the **CORRECTIONS CARES** program, please contact the Public Affairs Bureau at 305-229-7584 or 305-229-JAIL.

# GOOD *Community*

## Out with the old, in with the new

By Joseph McManus, Planning & Zoning

Since February 2000, a three-person team in the Department of Planning and Zoning has been diligently rewriting the Chapter 33 Miami-Dade County Zoning Code. The code, first adopted in 1957, manages the land uses and buildings within the 1,800 square mile unincorporated area.

The Zoning Code specifies the land use designated for that area. An example would be an area zoned solely for residential, as opposed to a mixed-use area that allows residents and commercial properties to be built alongside each other. Zoning Districts, which are mapped geographically, summarize limits on uses and buildings. Building construction is also controlled through a series of height, bulk, setback and lot coverage limitations.

"The County's Zoning Code is being completely rewritten to simplify, rationalize and modernize it," said Department of Planning & Zoning director Diane O'Quinn Williams. "The aim is to make it more user-friendly, to rely more on tables, graphs and illustrations rather than text and to use flow charts to illustrate zoning processes."

"New Urbanism" concepts are being incorporated into many of the zoning district revisions with the hopes that it will help deter urban sprawl and encourage a more compact development pattern. This concept will also help reduce trip length and facilitate multi-purpose trips by reducing dependence on the automobile and encouraging the use of rapid transit.

The proposals will concentrate on development in urban centers at intersections of major roads and at transit stations as outlined in the Comprehensive Development Master Plan. The mixed-use centers will incorporate retail, office and residential uses often in the same building. Design standards will be included for the first time in the planning and development of the urban centers. The pedestrian-friendly buildings will be built closer to the street, parking lots will be placed on the side or behind the buildings and beautified with trees, flowering plants and shrubs in order to create a more aesthetically pleasing area.

The Zoning Code re-write is currently in draft form. All 24 proposed articles are now being reviewed with a 15-person technical committee, which represents various



From left to right, Planning and Zoning re-write team members Ivonne Abreu, Joseph McManus and Deena Mullinix

county departments. The committee meets twice a month to review drafts and brainstorm for new ideas. Joining them are local groups such as AIA Miami, Builder's Association of South Florida, Latin Builders Association and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

Even after the adoption of the new Zoning Code, changes within the existing residential and business zoning districts will be allowed, giving homeowners and businesspeople more flexibility in developing their property.

Highlights of the process can be viewed by accessing the department's website at: [www.miamidade.gov/planzone/zcr\\_highlights.htm](http://www.miamidade.gov/planzone/zcr_highlights.htm)

## New Miami-Dade County initiative aims to better integrate Cuban and Haitian immigrants

By Phares Poliard, Communications

In an effort to better integrate and orient Cuban and Haitian immigrants to Miami-Dade County and American society, the County recently launched The Cuban/Haitian Refugee Crime and Victimization Initiative (CHRCVI), a collection of social services for Cuban and Haitian refugees, new entrants, asylum applicants and parolees.

The initiative is funded by a \$4 million grant Miami-Dade County received from the State of Florida in October 2001. CHRCVI gives the Department of Human Services (DHS) of Miami-Dade County the ability to implement neighborhood-based services in highly populated immigrant areas of the county where incidents of crime and abuse are most prevalent.

In addition to early intervention support services and referrals, the program promotes self-sufficiency and a successful integration in our society. The major highlights of the programs are: community education and access to services; community/police liaisons; domestic violence intervention and victim services; family outreach and support services; services to high-risk youths; community-based partnerships; and employment training and technical assistance.

"The assimilation process is more effective when clients are linked to existing services in their community," said Eddy Altiné, program assistant director. "CHRCVI emphasizes on working with the whole family to provide culturally relevant services that focus on prevention, early intervention, and self-efficiency."

The eligibility criterion for CHRCVI are Cuban/Haitian refugees, Entrants, Asylum Applicants, and Parolees who have been in the United States for five years or less or lawful permanent residents who were refugees, entrants or asylees prior to their transition to permanent residency. DHS has offices in Little Haiti, North Miami/ North Miami Beach, East Little Havana, and Homestead.



Program assistant director Eddy Altiné at work assisting a client.

Additional information can be obtained by calling their main number at 305-529-2300.



## An artist among us

By Toni-Anne Blake, Water and Sewer

Marie Celeste Ellis, a laboratory technician at Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's (WASD) Blackpoint Plant, is one of 24 well-known local artists who are participating in "Flamingos in the Gables" and using their talents to raise money for a very worthy cause. Marie's renderings are two of almost 50 seven-foot-tall flamingos dotting sidewalks and other spaces around Coral Gables to raise money for CHARLEE Homes for Children, a non-profit organization that helps neglected and abused children under the auspices of comedian Rosie O'Donnell.



WASD lab tech Marie Celeste Ellis with her Flamingo Charrette.

Area businesses and individuals have either sponsored the birds for \$2,000, to cover production costs, or purchased them for \$2,500. The sponsors commissioned an artist and selected from among more than 400 multicolor designs that were submitted by hundreds of local artists. Marie and her two flamingos, Charrette and Floral Gables FLAmingo, were sponsored by the city of Coral Gables and the University of Miami. Charrette is being displayed on Alhambra Circle and Floral Gables FLAmingo, which has already been purchased by the city of Coral Gables, is on Biltmore Way.

While Marie's name may be attached to the flamingos, she concedes that her three grandchildren – nine-year-old Sarah, eight-year-old Isaac and two-year-old Erin – were co-artists on the project. "I had a lot of fun working with my grandchildren on this project," says Marie. "They helped me take pictures of buildings and landmarks all over the Gables for Floral Gables FLAmingo and they helped put collages together."

Even with the help of her grandchildren, it took Marie approximately 10 days of constant work to finish the two distinctive flamingos. Marie's grandfather Fernando Palicio owned F. Palicio y Cia, one of the top cigar manufacturers in Cuba and it was that heritage that inspired Floral Gables. In addition to photographs, the decoupage that covers the art piece features flowers cut from the labels of cigar brands, such as Punch and Hoyo de Monterrey, once produced by her grandfather's company.

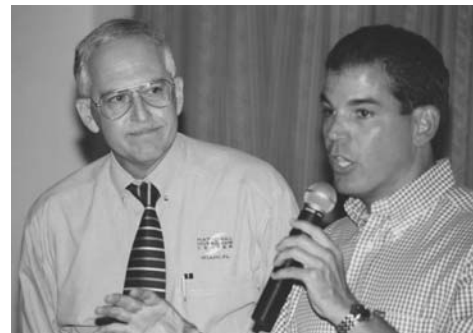
The other flamingo, Charrette, features posters, newspaper clippings and other material related to meetings held in Coral Gables to discuss the city's beautification. Marie's and the other colorful birds will be on display throughout the area until October when those that are not already bought will be auctioned off.

## Celebration commemorates "Andrew 10 Years Later" at the Deering Estate

By Laura Phillips, Parks and Recreation

Miami-Dade Parks commemorated the county's amazing recovery after Hurricane Andrew with an "Andrew 10 Years Later-A Celebration" on August 24 at the Deering Estate at Cutler, 16701 SW 72 Avenue, Miami.

Festivities included storm-related exhibits and presentations, a live weather forecast by the Weather Channel and a special announcement by keynote speaker Max Mayfield of the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Visitors were also invited to tour the Estate's historic homes while children participated in painting a giant mural, depicting what a hurricane meant to them. A musical performance featured renowned saxophonist Ed Calle and his band.



Mayor Alex Penelas (right) introduces keynote speaker Max Mayfield of the National Hurricane Center.

"The Deering Estate, like most of south Miami-Dade County, was a victim of Hurricane Andrew," said Carlos Dunn, interim director for the Deering Estate. "With the support of Miami-Dade County, our citizens, the State of Florida, FEMA and private grants, we were able to get the dollars needed to help get us back on our feet."

Hurricane Andrew, with its 155 mph winds and strong surge left the 450-acre estate with more than \$7 million in damages. This destruction not only encompassed the Estate's historic buildings, causing severe structural damage to the 1896 Richmond Cottage and the 1922 Stone House, but impacted more than 90 percent of its native pinelands, mangroves and tropical hardwood hammocks.

## Miami Art Museum receives grant from Miami-Dade Empowerment Trust for Overtown Youth Project

By Winter Morea, Miami Art Museum



MAM education curator Andrea Heiss leads MAM in the Neighborhood participants in a storyboard discussion.

The Miami-Dade Empowerment Trust awarded Miami Art Museum a \$25,000 grant for its ongoing outreach program, MAM in the Neighborhood.

The program, which runs in the summer, involves students from Overtown. This year, they produced a documentary-style video about their neighborhood that included the Historic Lyric Theater. Under the guidance of MAM's staff, students learned how to conceive storyboards, conceptualize themes, write scripts,

and develop a soundtrack. They were also required to write daily assignments, participate in art workshops, and take weekly tours of South Florida cultural institutions. An ongoing evaluation process, including the students, teachers, and Overtown community leaders, was a vital part of sustaining the program's success upon its completion in August.

MAM in the Neighborhood, which was launched in the summer of 2001, is committed to broadening the scope of the museum's outreach efforts to under-served youth. "We are honored to receive this grant to work with the students of Overtown. In the program's second year, we feel we are truly making a difference for Miami's residents and community," said Suzanne Delehanty, MAM director.

The Miami-Dade Empowerment Trust is designed to empower people and communities through business, educational, and cultural initiatives. Its objectives include creating jobs and business opportunities in the most economically distressed areas of inner cities and rural homelands nationwide through job skills training, childcare, and entrepreneurship.

Designated Miami-Dade Empowerment Zones include the areas of Allapatah/Civic Center, Florida Homestead, Liberty City, East Little Havana, Melrose, Overtown, Wynwood, Miami International Airport and areas of the Central Business District and Seaport. Sites in development include Florida City, Homestead, Opa-Locka Airport, and Northside/Poinciana Industrial Center (79 Street Corridor).

# CALENDAR

*of Events*

**Miami Dade Public Library System  
Celebrate @ Your Library  
October 1 to December 31, 2002**

Throughout the month of October the Miami-Dade Public Library System will host a variety of cultural and literary programs to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. There will be author presentations, music performances, dance, theatre, panel discussions, and an amalgam of family and children's programs with internationally renowned storytellers, puppet shows and more.

Also in October, the Miami Dade Public Library System joins the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) in the 5th annual celebration of Annual Teen Read Week. This year's theme, "Get Graphic @ your library", celebrates the popularity of graphic novels with teens. The weeklong celebration will kick off Saturday, October 12 with a Teen Read-a-Thon at The Shops at Sunset Place, Aventura Mall, Lincoln Road Mall, and at the South Dade Regional Library.

The series will conclude with the celebration of National Children's Book Week during the month of November. Reading adds color to your day! Book Time, this year's theme, encourages children, and the adults who care for them, to make time each day to spend with a favorite book. Libraries throughout the county will host special events. Among the guest artists will be Grant Livingston, one of Florida's premiere singer/songwriters; Fantasy Theatre Company, and children's author Janie DeVos and book illustrator Mariah Fox. Also, there will be a special Make-A-Bookmark contest. Children and their families are invited to participate in this wonderful celebration.



**The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
has a new **HOTLINE** number.**



**Please contact our Ethics HOTLINE at 305-579-9093 to report unethical conduct,  
alleged violations of the law and/or abuses of local government.**

**Your identity will be protected and the information you provide will remain confidential.**

**NEW HOTLINE NUMBER: 305-579-9093**

**Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust**

## CUT *it Out*

### Emergencies 911

Police Non-Emergency .....305-4 POLICE  
Fire Non-Emergency.....786-331-5000

Answer Center  
(Open M-F, 8am-8pm) .....305-468-5900  
Animal Services Unit.....305-884-1101  
Bus and Rail Information.....305-770-3131  
Center for Employment Hotline ...305-375-5725  
Community Councils.....305-375-2842  
Consumer Protection Hotline.....305-375-3677  
Consumer Service Switchboard ...305-375-1250  
County Manager.....305-375-1032  
Jackson Health System .....305-585-1111  
Libraries .....305-375-BOOK  
Park & Recreation.....305-755-7800  
Parking Violations .....305-275-1133  
Mosquito Control.....305-592-1186  
Traffic Signals Out.....305-592-3580

Team Metro Neighborhood Service Centers  
Downtown.....305-375-4845  
North Central .....305-626-7976  
Caleb Center .....305-636-2333  
Northwest .....305-557-2171  
Kendall .....305-270-4979  
South Dade.....305-234-1510  
Melrose .....305-638-7231  
University .....305-222-2133  
Northeast.....305-947-9858  
West .....305-480-1700

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Board of County Commissioners**

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**Dorrian D. Rolle**  
District 2  
**Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler**  
District 3  
**Sally Heyman**  
District 4  
**Bruno A. Barreiro**  
District 5  
**Rebeca Sosa**  
District 6  
**Jimmy L. Morales**  
District 7

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District 8  
**Dennis C. Moss**  
District 9  
**Senator Javier D. Souto**  
District 10  
**Joe A. Martinez**  
District 11  
**José "Pepe" Diaz**  
District 12  
**Natacha Seijas**  
District 13

**Harvey Ruvín, Clerk of Courts**  
**Steve Shiver, County Manager**  
**Robert A. Ginsburg, County Attorney**



Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

# CountyCitizen

*We're more than county employees, we're your neighbors* 